(a) whether it is a fact that, due to shortage of bogies, new trains are not being operated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to establish new factories in view of the shortage of bogies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Introduction of new trains is affected on account of shortage of coaches. However, to meet the additional demand, new manufacturing factories for coaches are being set up.

(c) and (d) A new coach factory has been sanctioned with the capacity to produce 800 coaches per year at Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh. Proposal for setting up of manufacturing unit at Palakkad in Kerala has been announced in the Railway Budget 2008-09. Besides, proposal for manufacturing of coaches under joint venture/public private partnership mode has been announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10 to set up a rail coach factory at Kanchrapara in West Bengal.

Rail links with Nepal and Bhutan

263. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways has come up with a plan to build links with Nepal and Bhutan to counter China's great push to build railway links in South Asia;

(b) if so, whether RITES has been asked to conduct feasibility studies in this regard and submit its report;

(c) if so, the details of the reports submitted by RITES;

(d) whether the cost of these projects has been estimated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) Preliminary Engineering cum Traffic surveys have been conducted by M/s RITES for new rail connectivity proposals in Nepal and feasibility-studies in Bhutan. Details of the surveys completed alongwith estimated cost of the projects is as follows:-

Nepal

Sl. No.	Proposed rail links		Distance	Estimated cost
	From	To	(in Km)	(in Rs. cr.)
1	Jogbani	Biratnagar (Nepal)	19	243
2	Jayanagar	Bijalpura (Nepal) & extn. to Bardidas	70	447
3	Nepalganj Road	Nepalganj (Nepal)	12	149
4	Nautanwa	Bhairahawa (Nepal)	15	176
5	New Jalpaiguri	Kakarbhita *via* Panittanki (Nepal)	46	358